DoD Manual 1348.33, Volume 1

Manual of Military Decorations and Awards: Medal of Honor

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Purpose: This manual is composed of several volumes, each containing its own purpose. In accordance with the authority in DoD Directive 5124.02 and DoD Instruction (DoDI) 1348.33:

- This manual implements policy, assigns responsibilities, and provides procedures for managing the DoD Military Decorations and Awards Program.
- This volume:
  - Provides information regarding the Medal of Honor (MOH) and award criteria.
  - Provides information on courtesies and privileges afforded MOH recipients.
  - Prescribes procedures for preparing and submitting MOH recommendations.
  - Prescribes procedures for requesting replacement and duplicate MOHs.
  - Prescribes procedures for presentation of the MOH flag.

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SECTION 1: GENERAL ISSUANCE INFORMATION

1.1. APPLICABILITY. This issuance applies to OSD, the Military Departments, the Office of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Joint Staff, the Combatant Commands, the Office of Inspector General of the Department of Defense, the Defense Agencies, the DoD Field Activities, and all other organizational entities within the DoD (referred to collectively in this issuance as the "DoD Components").

1.2. POLICY. It is DoD policy in accordance with DoDI 1348.33, that:

a. Service members serving in a DoD Component will, through the DoD Military Decorations and Awards Program, be recognized with the applicable personal military decoration (PMD) for qualifying acts of valor. Providing distinctive recognition to Service members for acts of valor is the top priority of the DoD Military Decorations and Awards Program.

b. The MOH, the highest-precedence and most prestigious U.S. military PMD, is awarded only to recognize valor and is normally awarded by the President of the United States.

c. Only one PMD is authorized for the same act, achievement, or period of service. A PMD for valor within a longer period of meritorious service is not considered duplication, provided the citation or the accompanying documentation justifying an award for the longer period of meritorious service does not cite any of the actions for which the valor decoration was awarded.

d. The Service member's grade will not be a factor in determining the type or level of valor recognition, nor will any quotas be established limiting the number of valor decorations that may be recommended or approved. A Service member who performs an act or acts of valor will be accorded appropriate recognition based solely on the merits of his or her actions.

e. Upgrading a previously approved award or reconsideration of a previously reviewed award recommendation, to include reconsideration for purposes of rescinding a previously approved award, requires:

(1) Presentation of new, substantive, and relevant material evidence that was not available at the time the original recommendation was considered. The information forming the basis for upgrade must have been previously unknown and not considered by the awarding authority. New information that merely adds details to what was previously provided in the original award recommendation will not meet the "new and relevant" requirement; or

(2) Evidence of material error or impropriety in the processing or adjudication of the original award recommendation. Examples might include loss of accompanying or substantiating documents or witness statements during the original routing of the recommendation; clearly incorrect application of official policy; or substantiated discrimination based on sex, religion, or race.

(a) Any conclusion that material error or impropriety occurred must be supported by a preponderance of the evidence.

(b) For MOH nominations previously considered by the Secretary of Defense or Secretary of a Military Department:

1. The Secretary of Defense determines whether material error or impropriety existed in any prior award case adjudicated within OSD.

2. The Secretary of the Military Department concerned determines whether material error or impropriety existed in any case previously adjudicated within his/her Department. This authority must not be delegated.

f. Determinations of eligibility for military decoration based on unofficial sources of information will be made in accordance with the requirements in DoDI 1348.33.

1.3. INFORMATION COLLECTIONS. All MOH nominations, referred to throughout this issuance, do not require licensing with a report control symbol in accordance with Paragraph 12 of Volume 1 of DoD Manual 8910.01.

1.4. SUMMARY OF CHANGE 5. The changes to this issuance are administrative and update language to comply with Executive Order 14168.

SECTION 2: RESPONSIBILITIES

2.1. UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR PERSONNEL AND READINESS (USD(P&R)). The USD(P&R):

a. Develops and maintains procedures for administrative processing of MOH nominations, awarding the MOH and ribbon, and the presenting of the MOH flag.

b. Ensures that regulations, guidance, and issuances of the DoD Components conform to pertinent laws, Executive orders, federal regulations, and DoD policy.

c. Advises the Secretary of Defense on MOH recommendations submitted by the Secretaries of the Military Departments.

d. Obtains the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff's (CJCS) endorsement on all MOH recommendations being forwarded to the Secretary of Defense.

e. Obtains the applicable Combatant Commander's endorsement on MOH recommendations being submitted to the Secretary of Defense within statutory time limits or for actions resulting from ongoing combat or military operations.

2.2. SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS. The Secretaries of the Military Departments:

a. Establish policies and procedures for processing MOH recommendations within their respective Military Departments that comply with pertinent statutes, Executive orders, federal regulations, and the policies and procedures outlined in DoDI 1348.33 and this volume.

b. Personally endorse to the Secretary of Defense, through the USD(P&R), MOH recommendations that meet the MOH award criteria and that include proof beyond a reasonable doubt that the member performed the valorous act(s) that led to the MOH recommendation. These recommendations will be coordinated with the Office of General Counsel of the Military Department concerned before they are forwarded.

c. For MOH recipients, notify the Service member's congressional delegation in accordance with notification requirements contained in DoDI 1348.33.

d. Maintain an MOH Roll in accordance with Section 1134a of Title 10, U.S.C.

e. Ensure Military Department and Service award guidance (e.g., regulations, instructions, manuals) specifically reference this issuance.

f. Notify the Secretaries of the other Military Departments when an individual is nominated for the MOH for valorous actions in a combat action that involved valorous actions by Service members from another Military Service.

2.3. CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF. The CJCS advises the Secretary of Defense regarding the merit of each MOH recommendation based on the request of the USD(P&R).

2.4. COMBATANT COMMANDERS. The applicable Combatant Commander, upon the request of the USD(P&R) through the CJCS, advises the Secretary of Defense regarding the merit of an MOH recommendation submitted within statutory time limits or for actions resulting from ongoing combat or military operations.

SECTION 3: MOH GENERAL INFORMATION

3.1. AWARD CRITERIA AND ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.

a. In accordance with Sections 7271, 8291, and 9271 of Title 10, U.S.C., the President may award, and present in the name of Congress, an MOH of appropriate design, with ribbons and appurtenances, to a person who, while a member of the Army, naval service, Air Force, or Space Force distinguished himself or herself conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his or her life above and beyond the call of duty:

(1) While engaged in an action against an enemy of the United States;

(2) While engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force; or

(3) While serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in an armed conflict against an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a belligerent party.

b. The MOH recommendation must contain proof beyond a reasonable doubt that the member performed the valorous action which resulted in the MOH recommendation.

c. The valorous action(s) performed must have been one of personal bravery or self-sacrifice so conspicuous as to clearly distinguish the individual above his or her comrades and must have involved risk of life.

d. While MOH criteria require the member to risk his or her life, there is **no** requirement for the member to be wounded or killed in order to meet the "risk of life" portion of the MOH award criteria.

e. In accordance with Section 1136 of Title 10, U.S.C., no MOH may be awarded to a person if the service of the person after the act justifying award has not been honorable. Honorable service determinations are made in accordance with DoDI 1348.33.

f. Upgrading a previously approved award to the MOH or reconsideration of an MOH nomination previously reviewed by the Secretary of Defense or the Secretary of a Military Department requires:

(1) Presentation of new, substantive, and relevant material evidence that was not available at the time the original recommendation was considered. The information forming the basis for upgrade must have been previously unknown and not considered by the awarding authority. New information that merely adds details to what was previously provided in the original award recommendation will not meet the "new and relevant" requirement; or

(2) Evidence of material error or impropriety in the processing or adjudication of the original award recommendation. Examples might include loss of accompanying or substantiating documents or witness statements during the original routing of the

recommendation, clearly incorrect application of official policy, or substantiated discrimination based on sex, religion, or race.

(a) Any conclusion that material error or impropriety occurred must be supported by a preponderance of the evidence.

(b) For MOH nominations previously considered by the Secretary of Defense or Secretary of a Military Department:

1. The Secretary of Defense determines whether material error or impropriety existed in any prior award case adjudicated within OSD.

2. The Secretary of the Military Department concerned determines whether material error or impropriety existed in any case previously adjudicated within his/her Department. This authority must not be delegated.

g. The MOH may not be awarded to foreign military personnel in accordance with Sections 7271, 8291, and 9271 of Title 10, U.S.C.

3.2. PROCEDURES.

a. Following endorsement of an MOH recommendation by the Secretary of a Military Department to the Secretary of Defense, through the USD(P&R), the USD(P&R) will request that the CJCS review and make a recommendation on the merit of the nomination to the Secretary of Defense. For MOH recommendations submitted within statutory time limits or for actions resulting from ongoing combat or military operations, the USD(P&R) will, through the CJCS, request that the applicable Combatant Commander also review and make a recommendation on the merit of the nomination to the Secretary of Defense.

b. The Secretary of the Military Department concerned will establish procedures to notify the other Military Services when an MOH nomination resulted from a combat action that involved valorous actions by Service members from another Military Service. The intent of this notification is to ensure that all Service members are appropriately recognized for their valorous actions and to allow multiple MOH recommendations resulting from the same combat action to be submitted concurrently to the Secretary of Defense. The notification should include as much information as available regarding the valorous actions of the sister Service members.

c. Refer to Sections 4 and 5 of this volume for further instructions on submitting MOH recommendations.

3.3. APPROVAL AUTHORITY. The President of the United States is the MOH approval authority in accordance with Sections 7271, 8291, and 9271 of Title 10, U.S.C., unless the President has delegated award authority in accordance with Sections 7275 and 9275 of Title 10, U.S.C. The Secretary of Defense personally endorses MOH recommendations deemed to meet award criteria to the President for consideration.

3.4. POSTHUMOUS AWARD. In accordance with Sections 7282, 8300, and 9282 of Title 10, U.S.C., if a person dies before the MOH to which such person is entitled is awarded, the award may be made and the MOH presented to his or her representative, as designated by the President of the United States.

3.5. ORDER OF PRECEDENCE. The MOH is the United States' highest military award and is worn first in order of precedence.

3.6. SUBSEQUENT AWARDS. A separate MOH is presented to an individual for each succeeding act that justifies award. A Service member awarded more than one MOH will always wear a separate MOH or separate MOH ribbon to correspond with the number of awards received.

3.7. AUTHORIZED DEVICES. There are no attachments authorized for the MOH.

3.8. AUTHORIZED APPURTENANCES. The MOH flag is the only authorized appurtenance to the MOH. Refer to Section 8 of this volume for additional information on the MOH flag.

3.9. DUPLICATE MOH. In accordance with Sections 7284, 8306, and 9284 of Title 10, U.S.C., a person awarded the MOH will, upon written application of that person, be issued, without charge, a duplicate MOH with ribbons and appurtenances for display purposes. Requests for duplicate MOHs should be made to the appropriate Military Department. Note that the MOH flag is an appurtenance of the MOH. Therefore, MOH recipients are authorized, upon written application, a duplicate MOH flag for display purposes.

3.10. ILLUSTRATION AND DESCRIPTION. See Figure 1.

Figure 1: Illustrations of Medals of Honor

Medals of Honor	
	MOH, Department of the Army: A gold five-pointed star, each point tipped with trefoils, 1 1/2 inches wide, surrounded by a green laurel wreath and suspended from a gold bar inscribed "VALOR," surmounted by an eagle. In the center of the star, Minerva's head surrounded by the words "UNITED STATES OF AMERICA." On each ray of the star is a green oak leaf. On the reverse is a bar engraved "THE CONGRESS TO" with a space for engraving the name of the recipient.
	MOH, Department of the Navy: A five-pointed bronze star, tipped with trefoils containing a crown of laurel and oak. In the center is Minerva, personifying the United States, standing with left hand resting on fasces and right hand holding a shield blazoned with the shield from the coat of arms of the United States. She repulses Discord, represented by snakes. The medal is suspended from the flukes of an anchor.
	MOH, Department of the Air Force: Within a wreath of green laurel, a gold five-pointed star, one point down, tipped with trefoils and each point containing a crown of laurel and oak on a green background. Centered on the star, an annulet of 34 stars is a representation of the head of the Statue of Liberty. The star is suspended from a bar inscribed with the word "VALOR" above an adaptation of the thunderbolt from the Air Force Coat of Arms.

SECTION 4: CATEGORIES OF MOH SUBMISSIONS

4.1. WITHIN STATUTORY TIME LIMITS. In accordance with Sections 7274, 8298, and 9274 of Title 10, U.S.C., each MOH recommendation must be submitted within 3 years of the act warranting the recommendation, and must be awarded within 5 years of the act justifying award. Refer to Section 5 of this volume for procedures for submitting MOH recommendations within statutory time limits.

4.2. RECOMMENDATION LOST OR NOT ACTED ON DUE TO INADVERTENCE. In accordance with Sections 7274, 8298, and 9274 of Title 10, U.S.C., if the Secretary of the Military Department concerned determines:

a. That a statement setting forth the distinguished service warranting award of the MOH, and recommending official recognition of it, was made and supported by sufficient evidence within 3 years after the distinguishing act; and

b. No award was made because the statement was lost or through inadvertence the recommendation was not acted upon; then,

c. The MOH may be awarded to the person concerned within 2 years after the date of the Secretary of the Military Department's determination that the MOH recommendation was lost or not acted on due to inadvertence pursuant to Sections 7274, 8298, and 9274 of Title 10, U.S.C. Refer to Section 5 of this volume for procedures for submitting MOH recommendations that were lost or not acted on due to inadvertence.

4.3. PURSUANT TO SECTION 1130 OF TITLE 10, U.S.C. In accordance with Section 1130 of Title 10, U.S.C., upon the request of a member of Congress, the Secretary of the Military Department concerned will review a proposal for the award or presentation of a decoration (or the upgrading of a decoration) either for an individual or unit that is not otherwise authorized to be presented or awarded due to time limitations established by law or policy. Refer to Section 5 of this volume for procedures for submitting MOH recommendations pursuant to Section 1130 of Title 10, U.S.C.

4.4. PAST STATUTORY TIME LIMITS.

a. The Secretary of the Military Department concerned may submit an MOH recommendation to the Secretary of Defense that was not initiated within 3 years of the act warranting the recommendation, or awarded within 5 years of the act justifying award as required by Sections 7274, 8298, and 9274 of Title 10, U.S.C.; however, the recommendation of the Secretary of the Military Department concerned will:

(1) Clearly articulate why the MOH was not submitted or awarded within statutory time limits.

(2) Include definitive rationale as to why the Secretary of Defense should request that Congress enact legislation waiving the statutory time limits contained in Sections 7274, 8298, and 9274 of Title 10, U.S.C. for submitting and awarding the MOH.

b. If the recommendation is an upgrade of a previously approved decoration or a request for reconsideration of a previously considered MOH recommendation, the Military Department Secretary's recommendation must clearly state the basis for the upgrade or reconsideration (i.e., new, substantive, and material information previously unknown or considered; or error or impropriety in the processing of the original award recommendation). Refer to Section 5 of this volume for procedures for submitting MOH recommendations past statutory time limits.

SECTION 5: PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION OF MOH RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1. ALL MOH RECOMMENDATIONS.

a. Each MOH recommendation forwarded to the Secretary of Defense will contain the endorsement of the Military Service Chief concerned, and will be forwarded through the USD(P&R) under the personal endorsement of the Secretary of the Military Department concerned.

b. MOH recommendations submitted to USD(P&R) must be suitable for presentation to the Secretary of Defense and the President of the United States.

c. Each MOH recommendation will include the minimum valor award requirements outlined in DoDI 1348.33. Example MOH nomination documents and guidance to assist in preparing nominations are at: https://prhome.defense.gov/M-RA/Inside-M-RA/MPP/OEPM/. Additionally, each recommendation will:

(1) Be prepared in two identical copies, less official citation and certificate.

(2) Be housed in a new three-ring binder of appropriate size with an organized table of contents.

(3) Contain substantiating documents (e.g., forms, narratives, witness matrix, witness statements, investigation reports and results, unit logs, graphs, diagrams, pictures, and videos) that are clearly legible and visible. Documents that were originally in color should be provided in color, not as black and white photocopies. Declassified documents will be appropriately labeled. Documents that are difficult to read will be transcribed and the transcription will be included in the recommendation along with the original document.

(4) Include a detailed processing timeline from award initiation through endorsement by the Secretary of the Military Department concerned.

(5) Include a list detailing all acronyms used in the recommendation.

(6) Include a complete PDF soft-copy that will be forwarded to USD(P&R) along with the two hard copies of the MOH recommendation. Classified portions of the recommendations will be appropriately marked.

(7) Include all citations for valor awards presented to other individuals in the same combat action for which the nominee is recommended for the MOH. If the combat engagement resulted in more than one MOH recommendation, the recommendations will be provided to OSD simultaneously by the Secretary or Secretaries concerned so that the recommendations may be processed concurrently to the Secretary of Defense.

(8) Include a Military Department MOH citation and certificate, in a presentation folder, suitable for presentation by the President of the United States.

(9) Collectively, substantiating documents in the MOH recommendation must show that the nominee met MOH award criteria and must provide proof beyond a reasonable doubt that the member performed the valorous act(s) that led to the MOH recommendation.

(a) Sworn witness statements should contain a complete description of the nominee's actions and must be in the eyewitnesses' own words. Statements will be signed by the individual making the statement and appropriately notarized or witnessed.

(b) The award nominee may not submit a statement supporting his or her own award recommendation.

(c) Determinations regarding awards are based on verifiable facts. Therefore, letters, books, newspaper and magazine articles, and personal diaries are not normally considered, as they are not official documents; however, they may be included to provide additional context.

d. If the recommendation is an upgrade of a previously approved award to the MOH, include an executive summary clearly outlining the basis for the upgrade request (i.e., new, substantive, and material information not known or previously considered; or substantiated error or injustice in processing the original award nomination). The executive summary will specifically identify the new and substantive information included in the recommendation justifying the upgrade request.

5.2. REQUIREMENTS FOR MOH RECOMMENDATIONS SUBMITTED WITHIN STATUTORY TIME LIMITS.

In addition to the requirements of Paragraph 5.1., include the standard synopsis and witness statement matrix, an example of which can be found at: https://prhome.defense.gov/M-RA/Inside-M-RA/MPP/OEPM/.

5.3. REQUIREMENTS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS LOST OR NOT ACTED ON DUE TO INADVERTENCE.

a. In addition to the requirements of Paragraph 5.1., the Secretary of the Military Department's MOH recommendation memorandum to the Secretary of Defense will clearly state:

(1) Whether the MOH recommendation was lost or not acted on due to inadvertence.

(2) The corrective action taken to preclude such an occurrence in the future.

(3) The date the Secretary of the Military Department concerned made the determination that the MOH recommendation was lost or not acted upon due to inadvertence.

b. For initial MOH recommendations, include the standard synopsis and witness statement matrix (not required for upgrade or reconsideration requests), an example of which can be found at: https://prhome.defense.gov/M-RA/Inside-M-RA/MPP/OEPM/.

5.4. REQUIREMENTS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS SUBMITTED PURSUANT TO SECTION 1130 OF TITLE 10, U.S.C.

a. Requestor Preparation. The requestor is required to submit a complete MOH nomination through a member of Congress to the Military Department concerned. The requestor must conduct the historical research necessary to ensure the recommendation package is complete prior to submission. In the event that an incomplete recommendation is submitted, the Military Department concerned will notify the requesting member of Congress regarding what additional information is required in order for the case to be considered. At a minimum, the MOH nomination submission must include:

(1) Completed and Signed Award Recommendation Form. The recommending official must follow processes for award initiation, as described by the applicable Military Department, to initiate a new award or recommend upgrade of an existing award to the MOH. Guidance for submitting award recommendations may be found at:

(a) Army. See Army Regulation 600-8-22.

(b) Navy and Marine Corps. See Secretary of the Navy Instruction and Manual 1650.1 Series.

(c) Air Force and Space Force. See Air Force Manual 36-2806.

(2) Narrative or Summary of Action. An award narrative or summary of action that provides a detailed description of the valorous act(s) performed by the nominee. All actions in the summary must be verifiable through the substantiating documents contained in the MOH recommendation.

(3) Substantiating Documents. Substantiating documents must show proof beyond a reasonable doubt that MOH award criteria have been met and that the nominee performed the actions for which they were recommended for the MOH.

(a) Signed and Notarized Eyewitness Statements. Statements, in addition to meeting the requirements of Paragraph 5.1.c.(9), will contain contact information for the eyewitnesses.

(b) Other Supporting Documentation. Provide other supporting documents as required, which may include, but are not limited to, such things as the original award recommendation, official unit logs, situation reports, investigations, after-action reports, fitness reports, or evaluations. Determinations regarding awards are based on verifiable facts. Therefore letters, books, newspaper and magazine articles, and personal diaries are not considered, as they are not official documents; however, they may be included to provide additional context.

(4) Proposed Citation. All actions included in the proposed citation must be verifiable through substantiating documents contained in the MOH recommendation.

b. Military Department Preparation. For MOH recommendations endorsed by a Secretary of a Military Department to the Secretary of Defense, the Military Department will include, in addition to the requirements of Paragraph 5.1.:

(1) Basis for Initial Award, Upgrade, or Reconsideration Requests.

(a) For an initial award, include the standard synopsis and witness statement matrix that substantiates, beyond a reasonable doubt, that the nominee performed the valorous act(s) detailed in the MOH narrative and citation.

(b) For an upgrade or reconsideration, provide an executive summary clearly outlining the basis for the upgrade or reconsideration request (i.e., new, substantive, and material information not known or previously considered; or error or injustice in processing original award nomination). The executive summary will specifically identify the new, substantive, and material information, or the designation of the error or injustice included in the recommendation justifying the upgrade request.

(2) Letter from Requesting Member(s) of Congress. Include a copy of the letter(s) from the requesting member(s) of Congress for review and award.

(3) Draft Time Waiver Legislation. Include draft time waiver legislation, an example of which can be found at: https://prhome.defense.gov/M-RA/Inside-M-RA/MPP/OEPM/.

5.5. REQUIREMENTS FOR MOH RECOMMENDATIONS ORIGINATING WITHIN A MILITARY DEPARTMENT THAT ARE PAST STATUTORY TIME LIMITS, BUT WERE NOT SUBMITTED BY A MEMBER OF CONGRESS.

Excludes MOH recommendations submitted pursuant to Section 1130 of Title 10, US.C. In addition to the requirements of Paragraph 5.1., for each MOH recommendation forwarded to the Secretary of Defense that was not initiated within 3 years of the act warranting the recommendation, or awarded within 5 years of the act justifying award as required by Sections 7274, 8298, and 9274 of Title 10, U.S.C., the Secretary of the Military Department concerned's recommendation memo will:

a. Clearly articulate why the Secretary of Defense should consider the MOH recommendation.

b. Explain why the MOH nomination was not submitted within the statutory time limits contained in Sections 7274, 8298, and 9274 of Title 10, U.S.C.

c. Request that the Secretary of Defense review the nomination and that the Secretary of Defense, for a favorably reviewed nomination in accordance with procedures outlined in Office of Management and Budget Circular No. A-19, notify the chairmen of the House and Senate Armed Services Committees of the favorable MOH determination and of the need for time waiver legislation to be enacted in order for DoD to take further action with the nomination.

d. Include the standard synopsis and witness statement matrix for initial MOH recommendations, an example of which can be found at: https://prhome.defense.gov/M-RA/Inside-M-RA/MPP/OEPM/. For upgrades or reconsiderations, include an executive summary as outlined in Paragraph 5.1.d.

SECTION 6: GOALS AND PROCEDURES FOR PROCESSING MOH RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1. The DoD goal is for MOH nominations to be initiated within 90 days of the action justifying award of the MOH. Timely initiation helps ensure witness statements and other evidence justifying the award are collected as close to the date of the combat action as possible.

6.2. The DoD goal is for MOH nominations to be forwarded to the Secretary of Defense through the USD(P&R) within 12 months following the initiation of the award recommendation.

6.3. To enhance tracking and processing of MOH recommendations, each Military Department will ensure that, at a minimum, the first general or flag officer who endorses an MOH recommendation notifies the applicable Military Service's higher-headquarters awards branch of the existence of the nomination. In turn, the Military Service's awards branch will provide guidance and direct assistance with completing the nomination package, including the need to review command investigations related to the action.

6.4. The Secretary of each Military Department will establish metrics to measure initiation and processing of MOH recommendations against established DoD goals.

6.5. Although more timely award initiation and processing is desired, the Department's preeminent goal is that all Service members who perform valorous acts receive appropriate recognition. The goals stated above will not be used to avoid processing any MOH recommendation that is initiated within statutory or regulatory time limits. Whether an individual award recommendation meets the DoD timeliness goals will not be a factor in determining the level of the award approved. The level of the decoration approved will be based solely on the merits of the act(s).

SECTION 7: PREMATURE DISCLOSURE OF MOH RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1. The President normally presents the MOH at a formal ceremony in Washington, D.C. Therefore, the White House makes the initial public announcement that an MOH has been approved.

7.2. Premature public disclosure of information concerning MOH recommendations, processing, and approval or disapproval actions is a potential source of embarrassment to those recommended and the government. In the case of approved recommendations, it could diminish the impact of ceremonies at which the presentation is made. To prevent premature disclosure, public comments will not be made on any MOH case under consideration.

7.3. MOH recommendations are considered "controlled unclassified information" (CUI), controlled by the Office of the USD(P&R) until such time as they are announced officially or presented. Until that time, MOH recommendations shall be listed as: "CUI Category: Privacy" and "Limited Dissemination Control: Deliberative." MOH recommendations are pre-decisional and are exempt from public release under Section 552(b)(5) of Title 5, U.S.C.

SECTION 8: MOH FLAG

8.1. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS. The MOH flag is authorized by Section 903 of Title 36, U.S.C. In accordance with Sections 7285, 8307, and 9285 of Title 10, U.S.C., and Section 555 of Public Law 109-364, the MOH flag will be presented:

a. To each person to whom an MOH is awarded. In the case of a posthumous award, the flag will be presented to the person to whom the MOH is presented.

b. Upon written application to the Military Department concerned, to the next of kin (NOK) of deceased MOH recipients who did not previously receive an MOH flag in accordance with Section 555 of Public Law 109-364 and the procedures outlined in Paragraph 8.3.

8.2. DESCRIPTION AND SYMBOLISM.

a. The MOH flag is light blue with gold fringe bearing 13 white stars in the same configuration as that of the 8-sided "pad" on the neck ribbon from which the MOH is suspended.

b. The MOH flag commemorates the acts of personal bravery or self-sacrifice above and beyond the call of duty and gives emphasis to the MOH being the highest award for valor by an individual serving in the Military Services.

8.3. PRESENTATION OF THE MOH FLAG.

a. In accordance with Sections 7285, 8307, and 9285 of Title 10, U.S.C., the President will provide for the presentation of the MOH flag to each person to whom an MOH is awarded, or, in the case of a posthumous award, to the person to whom an MOH is presented at the same time as the presentation of the MOH.

b. The Secretary of the Military Department concerned will establish procedures for presenting the MOH flag in an appropriate and dignified ceremony to eligible individuals identified in Paragraph 8.1.

(1) At a minimum, a general or flag officer will preside over the presentation ceremony. The MOH flag will not be mailed to the recipient or NOK.

(2) Only one MOH flag will be presented to the MOH recipient or to the designated NOK. However, living MOH recipients are authorized, upon written request, a duplicate MOH flag for personal use, which may be mailed to the requestor.

(3) The MOH flag will be folded with one star showing, representing the MOH and presented to the recipient or NOK during the ceremony.

8.4. FOLDING THE MOH FLAG.

a. The folded flag should form a rectangle with one star showing, representing the recipient's MOH.

b. This process is shown in Figure 2.

(1) Fold the flag in half twice width wise.

(2) Fold the flag in thirds length wise, leaving one star showing.

(3) Fold the flag in thirds so that one star is centered.

Figure 2: Folding the MOH Flag

8.5. DISPLAY.

a. The MOH flag is a ceremonial flag for indoor use and may be displayed in the home or office of the recipient.

b. The MOH flag may be displayed publicly when the individual is being honored at an official military ceremony or the individual is in attendance on the reviewing stand in an official ceremony. If the MOH flag is displayed on a flagstaff, the flagstaff will be 8 feet tall, but will not be higher than the U.S. flag if displayed at the same time as the U.S. flag.

c. When the MOH flag is displayed with the U.S. flag, the U.S. flag will hold the position of superior prominence and the position of honor on the right. The MOH flag will be placed to the left of the U.S. flag. When viewed from an audience, the U.S. flag will be on the left and the MOH flag will be on the right. The order of precedence of the MOH flag when displayed with State, organizational, or general or flag officer personal flags is: U.S. flag, State flag, organizational flag, personal flag, and then the MOH flag.

d. The Secretaries of the Military Departments will establish procedures for the official display of the MOH flag by Government agencies or civilian institutions. As an appurtenance to the MOH, the MOH flag will be displayed in an attractive, dignified, and secure manner.

SECTION 9: COURTESIES AND PRIVILEGES ACCORDED MOH RECIPIENTS

9.1. The Secretary of the Military Department concerned, in accordance with Section 1134a of Title 10 U.S.C.:

a. Enters each MOH recipient's name on the respective Military Department's MOH Roll.

b. For living MOH recipients, and posthumous MOH awards to members with surviving spouses:

(1) Issues each a certificate of enrollment on the MOH Roll.

(2) Delivers to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs a certified copy of the certificate of enrollment on the MOH Roll, which authorizes the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to pay the monthly special pension authorized pursuant to Section 1562 of Title 38, U.S.C.

9.2. Enlisted recipients who retire from Military Service with more than 20, but less than 30 years of service who are credited with extraordinary heroism by the Secretary concerned may be eligible to receive a 10 percent increase in retired pay in accordance with Sections 7361, 8330, 9361, 1402, 1402a, and 12739 of Title 10, U.S.C.

9.3. A former Service member who is an MOH recipient and who is not otherwise entitled to medical and dental benefits may, upon request, be given medical and dental care provided by the administering Secretary concerned in the same manner as if entitled to retired pay in accordance with Section 1074h of Title 10, U.S.C. A person who is an immediate dependent of an MOH recipient who is not otherwise entitled to medical and dental benefits may, upon request, be given medical and dental care provided by the administering Secretary concerned in the same manner as if the MOH recipient were, or (if deceased) were at the time of death, entitled to retired pay in accordance with Section 1074h of Title 10, U.S.C.

9.4. Unlike other military personnel and retirees, MOH recipients may wear their uniforms at any time or place they choose, except:

a. In connection with furthering or advocating any political or commercial interests, or when engaged in off-duty civilian employment.

b. When participating in public speeches, interviews, picket lines, marches, rallies, or public demonstrations, except as authorized by competent authority.

c. When attending any meeting or event that is a function of, or is sponsored by, an extremist organization.

d. When wearing the uniform would bring discredit upon the DoD or the individual's respective Military Department.

e. When specifically prohibited by Department of Defense or Military Department instructions or directives.

9.5. Recipients who are not on active duty or a military retiree are issued a DoD identification card, as are their family members and caregivers. It authorizes them military commissary and exchange privileges in accordance with Section 1065 of Title 10, U.S.C. All of the Military Departments, consistent with statute and DoD policy, authorize MOH recipients use of morale, welfare, and recreation activities, including honorary club membership without dues. The holder of a DoD identification card with the MOH identifier is also authorized to use space available military travel in accordance with DoDI 4515.13. Additional guidance on identification card benefits is available in Volume 2 of DoD Manual 1000.13.

9.6. Children of MOH recipients are not subject to quotas if they are qualified and desire to attend one of the U.S. Service academies.

9.7. MOH recipients receive invitations to attend Presidential inaugurations and accompanying festivities. Recipients on active duty and those who are U.S. Government civilian employees have traditionally been authorized administrative excused absence instead of chargeable leave to attend these events.

9.8. The Department of Veterans Affairs provides a special engraved headstone for deceased MOH recipients.

9.9. MOH recipients should be accorded on-base billeting commensurate with the prestige associated with the MOH.

GLOSSARY

G.1. ACRONYMS.

CJCS	Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
CUI	controlled unclassified information
DoDI	DoD instruction
MOH	Medal of Honor
NOK	next of kin
PDF	portable document format
PMD	personal military decoration
U.S.C.	United States Code
USD(P&R)	Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness

G.2. DEFINITIONS. These terms and their definitions are for the purpose of this issuance.

Armed Forces of the United States. The Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Space Force, and Coast Guard.

conspicuous. Attracting attention by being unexpected, unusual, outstanding, remarkable, or striking.

gallantry. Nobility of behavior or spirit. Heroic courage.

immediate dependent. Has the same meaning as the term 'dependent' as defined in DoD 7000.14-R.

intrepid. Bold, fearless, dauntless, very brave, not afraid.

Military Services. Synonymous with the Armed Forces of the United States.

naval service. Service in the United States Navy, United States Marine Corps, all Reserve components thereof, and the United States Coast Guard and its Reserve component, when the Coast Guard, or units thereof, operate under control of the Navy.

NOK. In descending order, the surviving spouse; eldest surviving child (natural or adopted); surviving father or mother, unless legal exclusive (sole) custody was granted to a person by reason of a court decree or statutory provision; surviving blood or adoptive relative who was granted legal custody of the person by a court degree or statutory provision; eldest surviving brother or sister; eldest surviving half-brother or half sister; eldest surviving grandparent; or eldest surviving step-child.

Service member. A person serving in the Armed Forces of the United States.

valor. An act or acts of heroism by an individual above what is normally expected while engaged in direct combat with an enemy of the United States, or an opposing foreign or armed force, with exposure to enemy hostilities and personal risk.

REFERENCES

Air Force Manual 36-2806, "Awards and Memorialization Program," June 10, 2019

Army Regulation 600-8-22, "Military Awards," July 18, 2019, as amended

DoD 7000.14-R, DoD Financial Management Regulation, Volume 7A: "Military Pay Policy – Active and Reserve Pay," current edition

DoD Directive 5124.02, "Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness (USD(P&R))," June 23, 2008

DoD Instruction 1348.33, "DoD Military Decorations and Awards Program," December 21, 2016, as amended

DoD Instruction 4515.13, "Air Transportation Eligibility," January 22, 2016, as amended

DoD Instruction 5200.48, "Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI)," March 6, 2020

DoD Manual 1000.13, Volume 2, "DoD Identification (ID) Cards: Benefits for Members of the Uniformed Services, Their Dependents, and Other Eligible Individuals," January 23, 2014, as amended

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Secretary of the Navy Instruction 1650.1J Series, "Department of the Navy Military Awards Policy," May 29, 2019

Secretary of the Navy Manual 1650.1 Series, "Navy and Marine Corps Awards Manual," August 2019

United States Code, Title 5, Section 552(b)(5)

United States Code, Title 10

United States Code, Title 36, Section 903

United States Code, Title 38, Section 1562